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24. FIRST REPORT OF *BARILIUS BENDELISIS* (HAM.-BUCH.) FROM A WEST FLOWING RIVER CHALAKUDY IN KERALA

Barilius bendelisis (Ham.-Buch.) is one of the principal hillstream fishes in the rivers of Jammu. It is characterised by eight to twelve dark bands descending towards the lateral line which become indistinct as spots in the adult, and lateral line scales with two black spots at their base. It was reported throughout India except Kerala (Talwar and Jhingran 1991). It was reported from Periyar lake, Thekkady by Chacko (1948), but later Jayaram (1981) and Talwar and Jhingran (1991) deemed the reports as erroneous. Rajan (1955) reported it from the Bhavani river, South India, but the collection site was not mentioned. Bhavani river (a tributary of Cauvery) is one of the main east flowing rivers in Kerala.

Easa and Shaji (1995) have reported this species from the Pambar river, Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala. This report confirmed the occurrence of this species in Kerala and was also its first report in Kerala. Hitherto, this species was reported only from Bhavani and Pambar rivers, in Kerala. Both these rivers are east flowing. So far this species has not been reported from the west flowing rivers in Kerala.

We record here this species from Tekkadiar, tributary of Chalakudy river, at 540

m above msl in Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary. Chalakudy river is a west flowing river originating from the Anaimalai hill ranges. This species occurs in smaller numbers, compared to the related common species *Barilius gatensis* (Val.) in that locality. The temperature of the water was 24.8°C and the dissolved oxygen value was 8.2 ppm.

In Kerala, *Barilius bendelisis* (Ham.-Buch.) has not been reported from west flowing rivers. Thus, the present report of the species is the first report from a west flowing river in Kerala State.

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RAJU THOMAS, K.

BIJU, C.R.

AJITH KUMAR, C.R.

*Bombay Natural History Society,
Hornbill House, Dr. Sálim Ali Chowk,
Shaheed Bhagat Singh Road,
Mumbai 400 023.*

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25. NEW RECORD OF A RARE LOACH *NOEMACHEILUS MONILIS* FROM ANAIMALAI HILLS, WESTERN GHATS, TAMIL NADU

Noemacheilus monilis was originally described by Hora in 1921, based on two specimens collected from Bhavani river, Mettupalayam, Nilgiris. It has subsequently been reported only once from the same locality by Rajan (1955) who found only two specimens. Rajan (1965) also studied its ecology and food habits. The fish were found to feed on ephemeropteran and dipteran larvae, besides coleopterans and hemipterans. Jayaram *et al.* (1982) in their fish fauna of the Cauvery system listed this species only on the basis of earlier records. Menon (1987), in his revision of *Noemacheilus*, based his description of *N. monilis* on the two type specimens only. The extensive faunal collections from the Nilgiris, made by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have no representatives of this species. However, Easa and Shaji (1997) reported its presence in abundance in part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve in Kerala. All the reports so far have been from areas of the Nilgiris north of the Palghat Gap in the Western Ghats.

During a recent survey of the Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary by the ZSI, the third author collected this species from the Chinnar, a small rivulet flowing eastwards and draining into

the Cauvery system. This is the first record of this species south of the Palghat Gap in the Anaimalai Hills.

Description: 1 ex., 39.0 mm SL, Reg. No. F. 5218, ZSI/SRS, Chinnar River, Anaimalai Hills, 7.viii.1997, Coll. M.B. Raghuanathan.

D. 3/8; P. 1/9 & 1/10; V. 8; A. 3/5; C. 19; L. 1. complete.

The morphometric details of the specimen are as follows (in mm): Total length 49.0, standard length 39.0, head length 9.8, body depth 5.6, length of snout 4.0, eye diameter 2.0, inter-orbital width 2.8, length of barbels: inner rostral 3.6, outer rostral 4.5, maxillary 3.2, predorsal distance 20.2, post-dorsal distance 19.3, distance from pectoral fin base to pelvic fin base 11.3, from pelvic fin to anal fin 10.2, from anus to anal fin 1.9, length of caudal peduncle 5.3, height of caudal peduncle 4.5, height of dorsal fin 6.4, length of pectoral fin 7.4, length of pelvic fin. 6.2, length of anal fin 5.6.

In all the biometric characters, body proportions and colour pattern, the specimen agrees with the description given by Menon (1987). The only difference observed, also mentioned by Rajan (1955), is the presence of 8 branched rays in the dorsal fin.